

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of administering a promotional contest comprising the steps of:

 providing to a consumer a product the label of which includes an identification code;

 enabling the consumer to input the identification code into a prize redemption system;

 validating the identification code; and

 determining whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code via the Internet.

3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code at a kiosk.

4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code by telephone.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step determines whether the code is a winning prize that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by comparing the validated identification code with stored winning numbers.

6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by placing the validated code in a virtual hat

with other codes and drawing from the virtual hat.

7. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the determining step determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by generating a random number using a random number generator and comparing one or more digits of the validated code with the random number.

8. A server operable to run a prize redemption program in which a consumer has previously been provided with a product the label of which includes an identification code, the server being operable to:

enable the consumer to input the identification code into a prize redemption system;

validate the identification code; and

determine whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize.

9. A server according to Claim 8, wherein the server is on the Internet.

10. A server according to Claim 8, wherein the server determines whether the code is a winning prize that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by comparing the validated identification code with stored winning numbers.

11. A server according to Claim 8, wherein the server determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by placing the

validated code in a virtual hat with other codes and drawing from the virtual hat.

12. A server according to Claim 8, wherein the server determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by generating a random number using a random number generator and comparing one or more digits of the validated code with the random number.

13. Computer code executable on a server operable to run a prize redemption program in which a consumer has previously been provided with a product the label of which includes an identification code, the computer code comprising:

code for enabling the consumer to input the identification code into a prize redemption system;

code for validating the identification code; and

code for determining whether the identification code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize.

14. Computer code according to Claim 13, wherein the server is on the Internet.

15. Computer code according to Claim 13, wherein the server determines whether the identification code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by comparing the validated identification code with stored winning numbers.

16. Computer code according to Claim 13, wherein the server determines whether the identification code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by placing the validated code in a virtual hat with other identification codes and drawing from the virtual hat.
17. Computer code according to Claim 13, wherein the server determines whether the identification code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by generating a random number using a random number generator and comparing one or more digits of the validated code with the random number.
18. An apparatus for administering a promotional contest in which a consumer has been provided access to a product the label of which includes an identification code, the apparatus comprising:
- means for enabling the consumer to input the identification code into a prize redemption system;
- means for validating the identification code; and
- means for determining whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize.
19. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code via the Internet.
20. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code at a kiosk.

21. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the consumer inputs the identification code by telephone.
22. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the determining means determines whether the code is a winning prize that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by comparing the validated identification code with stored winning numbers.
23. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the determining means determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by placing the validated code in a virtual hat with other codes and drawing from the virtual hat.
24. An apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the determining step determines whether the code is a winning code that entitles the consumer to receive a prize by generating a random number using a random number generator and comparing one or more digits of the validated code with the random number.

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